

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph on page 9 of the originally filed specification as set forth below:

Additionally, a device may be used to support the walls of the coronary vessel during introduction of the guide member (and/or the introducer), thereby facilitating quick and easy access and penetration of the vessel. Suitable devices for supporting the heart wall and/or vessel walls are disclosed in commonly owned, copending application (attorney docket no. 004, U.S. Application No. 09/023,492, filed on October 13, 1998 and entitled "DEVICES AND METHODS FOR USE IN PERFORMING TRANSMYOCARDIAL CORONARY BYPASS," the subject matter of which is incorporated herein by reference. The vessel may be supported internally or externally in order to facilitate placement of delivery devices through the vessel walls and the heart wall.

Please amend the paragraph on page 20 of the originally filed specification as set forth below:

Several suitable tissue removal devices that may be used with a guide member are disclosed in commonly owned, copending application (attorney docket no. 003, U.S. Application No. _____, filed on October 13, 1998 U.S. Patent No. 6,651,670, and entitled "DELIVERING A CONDUIT INTO A HEART WALL TO PLACE A CORONARY VESSEL IN COMMUNICATION WITH A HEART CHAMBER AND REMOVING TISSUE FROM THE VESSEL OR HEART WALL TO FACILITATE SUCH COMMUNICATION," the subject matter of which is incorporated herein by reference.